

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DISSATISFACTION OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN ROMANIA

REF: BUDAPEST 1711

VIENNA'S 'DIE PRESSE' OF APRIL 25 CARRIED ARTICLE
BY PAUL LENDVAI ON DISSATISFACTION OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY
IN ROMANIA. ARTICLE WAS APPARENTLY BASIS FOR LATER RADIO
BROADCAST ON SAME SUBJECT. TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE
ROMANIA'S HUNGARIANS DEMAND MORE RIGHTS (HEADING)
COMMUNIST PARTY FUNCTIONARIES APPEAL TO CEAUSESCU (SUB-
HEADING)
THREE PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN
ROMANIA, IN SEPARATE LETTERS, HAVE ASKED STATE AND PARTY
CHIEF CEAUSESCU TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY'S
HUNGARIANS, WHOSE STRENGTH IS OFFICIALLY GIVEN AS 1.7
MILLION PERSONS. THE LETTERS WERE SENT BY JANOS FAZEKAS,
VICE PREMIER, POLITBURO MEMBER, AND THE HIGHEST ROMANIAN
PARTY FUNCTIONARY OF HUNGARIAN DESCENT; LAJOS TAKACS,
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FORMER RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ, ALTERNATE
MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE; AND ANDRAS SUTO, THE
MOST POPULAR WRITER OF HUNGARIAN NATIONALITY AND ALSO
AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

A 27-PAGE MEMORANDUM BY TAKACS, WHO IS ALSO VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES, HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE

TO WESTERN CIRCLES BY INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES OF BUDAPEST. IN HIS 18-POINT PROGRAM, TAKACS DEMANDS, INTER ALIA, THE TURNING OF THE COUNCIL INTO A REAL MASS ORGANIZATION APPOINTING THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE LOCAL AND CENTRAL BODIES. THE PROGRAM FURTHER DEMANDS THE CREATION OF A PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY QUESTIONS AND THE DRAFTING OF A NEW STATUTE FOR THE NATIONALITIES, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR 12 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OF 21.6 MILLION (7.91 PERCENT HUNGARIANS; 1.62 PERCENT GERMANS; 2.23 PERCENT OTHERS).

BESIDES GUARANTEED HUNGARIAN INSTRUCTION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR ALL WHO DESIRE IT, AND REORGANIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN TRANSYLVANIA, TAKACS DEMANDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RADIO STATION AND A TV CHANNEL TO BROADCAST PERMANENTLY IN THE LANGUAGES OF THE "CO-RESIDENT NATIONALITIES". ALSO DEMANDED ARE ACCESS TO HUNGARIAN PUBLICATIONS FROM HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND YUGOSLAVIA; THE ERECTION OF BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS; AND THE RIGHT TO USE THE MOTHER TONGUE IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THE NATIONALITIES ACCOUT FOR MORE THAN 15 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.

WESTERN OBSERVERS ASSUME THAT THE RELATIVE READINESS FOR CONCESSIONS SHOWN BY PARTY CHIEF CEAUSESCU IN AN ADDRESS TO THE JOINT PLENARY MEETING OF THE HUNGARIAN AND GERMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONALITIES IN MID-MARCH WAS DUE TO FERMENT IN THE RANKS OF THE NATIONALITIES. UNQUOTE. BORG

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